

SCHUBZ'S POLITICAL CAKEEK

crease should condemn the project. This thought was elaborated in a broad philosophical review of human history showing that the tropics are ill-adapted to the development of a high civilization—that they produce social and political systems in which the extremes of slavery and despotism are sure to prevail. All the troubles of the United States about slavery had been due, he argued, to the tendencies in the South toward tropical conditions arid methods in politics. European peoples had throughout history sought without ceasing, but in vain, to acquire power and prestige in warmer regions than their own. A romantic longing for the South had impelled many a happy nation to ruin; and, with words that could have come only from one trained amid the ideals and traditions that inspired the German reform movement of 1848, he illustrated his thought by reference to his native land. "It was on the beautiful plains of Italy that the German Empire spent its strength. It was in hunting after Southern shadows that it frittered away its great opportunities of home consolidation. It was, so to say, in the embraces of that beautiful Southern siren that the German Empire lost its manhood." As recent and immediately appropriate illustrations of the dangers to be shunned, he cited the experiences of Great Britain in India, France in Mexico, and Spain and France in Santo Domingo itself. "Do not/" he concluded, "touch a scheme like this; do

not trifle with that which may poison the future
of this great
nation; beware of the tropics.⁵¹

This speech was much applauded and
praised. In later
years Mr. Schurz classed it as one of the best
three of his
senatorial career. Its effects on fellow-Senators,
was, of course,
not w. proportion to its merits. Morton's
resolution was passed
by heavy majorities in both Houses; a
commission under its
provision went to Santo Domingo and made a
report favorable